

an unemployment rate that outstripped the national average, poor schools with alarming dropout rates, and no decent or affordable housing. The first grants to address the Bradhurst area were received from Local Initiative Support Corporation and leveraged donations raised through special church collections. The organization used the Industrial Areas Foundation method of developing an organization. Since then, HCCI's community service has been reversing these conditions concurrently, block by block.

From welfare-to-work training and placement, to adult basic education and GED prep (in collaboration with Literacy Partners), HCCI has helped hundreds of Harlem residents prepare for the workforce through its Office of Human Capital Development and trains still others to become licensed family childcare providers. Other job readiness services include computer training at HCCI's Career and Technology Center, and collaborations with Literacy Partners. The Intel Computer Clubhouse trained neighborhood kids in web design so well that they won a grant to create a Web site on the negative effects of tobacco. The city's building trade industry has welcomed graduates of the Construction Trades Academy where students learn valuable skills in construction work, including handling hazardous materials such as asbestos abatement and lead paint control.

HCCI's customer service training program proved valuable for residents who were hired at the new Pathmark Supermarket at 145th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. Part of a \$42 million real estate initiative, HCCI's Office of Real Estate Development broke ground on the market and a 126-unit co-operative apartment complex in the heart of the Bradhurst neighborhood. Indeed, quality affordable housing has been the centerpiece of HCCI's services to the community from the very beginning. To date, approximately 2,000 units of affordable housing have been built through innovative cross sector collaborations with city and State elected officials, the NYC Housing Development Corporation, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, a host of banking institutions that include JPMorganChase, Citicorp, Roslyn Savings, the Bank of New York, Bank of America, Wachovia and Washington Mutual. Embarking on the Equitable Development initiative, JP Morgan Chase's Community Development competition awarded the \$25,000 top prize to three New School University graduate students to create an architectural design that would transform the Erbograph Building on 146th Street into a new community facility space for some of HCCI's offices and housing for the elderly.

One of the more damaging health care crises of the twentieth century has been the AIDS epidemic. Communities of color have been the hardest hit. African-American men and women are nine times more likely to die from the disease than white AIDS patients. In 2004, Central Harlem recorded 218 newly diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS. HCCI began to educate Harlem residents about HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and more recently created a pilot program called the Community Organizations and Congregations for Health Institute (COACH), offering technical assistance to five faith-based institutions to help them start nonprofits to sustain their HIV prevention services. For the past seven years, HCCI has hosted the Balm in Gilead/Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. HCCI increases awareness through street education and outreach, presentations and workshops, and their growing Health Resource Library. HCCI's scattersite housing initiative has proved effective in housing HIV/AIDS patients, many of whom were homeless. Food stamp access programs

and other services funded by the city's Human Resources Administration have helped restore them to more productive lives.

The question is always asked whether the church can be an agent for change if it is facing all of the previously mentioned challenges. It is an uphill battle to be sure. But HCCI's 100-church membership has proven that with God's help it can be done.

**THE APPOINTMENT OF EVE J. HIGGINBOTHAM, M.D. AS DEAN OF THE MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her appointment as the new Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham has long been a valued member of my Health Advisory Committee, where she has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities.

Dr. Higginbotham received her S.B. and S.M. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her M.D. from the Harvard Medical School. In 1994, Dr. Higginbotham was appointed as Chair of the Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Department at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, becoming the first woman in the United States to head a university-based ophthalmology department. Previously, she served on the University of Illinois faculty as Chief of the Glaucoma Clinic and an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Higginbotham has also served on numerous boards, including those of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Helen Keller Foundation. Her strong commitment to improving health care is evident from her work with the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, where as Director of Outreach Services she established a program through which medical students screen patients in their communities for glaucoma. The program, Student Sight Savers, has been a great success and is currently in operation at more than thirty medical schools nationwide.

Throughout her career, Dr. Higginbotham has received numerous awards and honors, including the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award in 2004. She has received the Suzanne Veroneaux-Troutman Award and the Roman Barnes Achievement Award. She has consistently been listed among the Best Doctors in Baltimore and America for over a decade.

The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is an historically black institution established to recruit and train physicians, scientists, and public health professionals committed to primary health care. Founded in 1975, the Morehouse School of Medicine admitted its first class in 1978, became an independent, four-year medical school in 1981, and was fully accredited in 1985. Since its founding, it has graduated 602 physicians, 68 percent of whom are primary care practitioners and 84 percent of whom practice in economically depressed areas. I am confident that Dr.

Higginbotham will help continue and further shape the legacy of the Morehouse School of Medicine as it works to fulfill the needs of America's underserved communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Higginbotham is both a renowned expert in her field and an outstanding public servant. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her new role as Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. This week, Maryland's loss is Atlanta's gain, and I wish to stand with the many Marylanders who are grateful to Dr. Higginbotham for her tremendous service to our community.

**HONORING PVT. JODY MISSILDINE**

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, Pvt. Jody Missildine. Tragically, on April 8, 2006, Jody was killed while serving in Tal Afar, Iraq. He was 19 years old.

Jody's dream was to see the world and one day go to college. However, he selflessly did not want to burden his grandparents, Shirley and Melvin, with the financial responsibility that comes with world travel and a four-year degree. He saw the Armed Forces as the best way to achieve his goals, and most importantly, on his own terms. So while still attending high school, Jody signed up for the Army and immediately following his graduation, he left his home in Plant City, Florida, to begin his service to our nation.

Soon Jody's division was deployed to Iraq and despite being several thousand miles away from each other, Jody did his best to stay close to the family he loved so dearly, calling home nearly every week. Always concerned for the well-being of others, Jody rarely spoke about the daily events in Iraq, but rather, he focused his attention on the safety of his family. On Friday, April 7, Jody expressed concerns about Iraq to his grandmother, or Nanna as he called her, during their telephone conversation. Sadly, the next day while on patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, an explosive device detonated near his convoy and killed Jody.

Jody embodied everything that this great country stands for: integrity, hard work, determination, and compassion. He always put others ahead of himself and I am honored to know that this fine young man helped ensure America's continuing independence and security.

Mr. Speaker, as we have seen throughout the history of this nation, freedom is not free; it comes with a heavy price. The sacrifices of brave men and women like Jody have guaranteed this country's continuing liberty. And just as Jody did all he could to protect his family while he was alive, I know he is watching over them from heaven.

I know words can not help fill the emptiness that the Missildine family feels from the loss of Jody. However, I hope they take solace in knowing that our nation is truly stronger and greater for having a man of Jody's character serve it.

May God bless the Missildine family and may He continue to watch over the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the "Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2006" which would authorize \$45 million each year from FY2007 through FY2009 for programs in Afghanistan that benefit "women and girls as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. The funding would be directed toward important needs including medical care, education, vocational training, protection from violence, legal assistance, and civil participation. This legislation was introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senator BARBARA BOXER (D-CA).

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

While the Afghan constitution guarantees equality for Afghan women, throughout Afghanistan, women continue to face intimidation, discrimination, and violence. The United States has an obligation to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities that they were denied under the Taliban and that the gains that have been made are not lost in the coming months and years. It is imperative that we provide the support needed to ensure that the rights of women are protected in the new Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY GADEN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Gaden, a resident of Chautauqua County and the City of Jamestown for the honor of the Team Spirit Award.

Ms. Gaden is a very active member of the Chautauqua County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She was selected for this award because of her outstanding volunteer work and amazing spirit.

Nancy is best known for her musical abilities. She can always be found brightening the lives of people by way of her innovative approach to music. Wherever Nancy goes to perform she brings rhythmic instruments and passes them out to everyone in the crowd. Regardless of a person's mental or physical state they receive an instrument and can always find a way to express themselves through it. Ms. Gaden is always an upbeat, motivated and cheerful person. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets. The outlet that she provides by way of music is so important because it allows everyone to participate and be part of the entertainment. She touches people's lives wherever she goes and her presence and music brighten everyone's day.

For all of her volunteer work and her willingness to touch the lives of others I commend

her, and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the April 11, 2006 New York CaribNews entitled "Civil Rights Struggle Far From Over: NAACP Remains In Forefront, Almost A Century After Its Creation"; that praises the longevity and extreme effectiveness of the most influential civil rights organization in the United States known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or the NAACP.

Since its inception the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was poised for a long, tumultuous and rewarding history. Although it may be possible to chronicle the challenging and harrowing legacy of the NAACP, the real story of the Nation's most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand still while the rights of America's people of color were denied.

The history of the NAACP is one of blood, sweat and tears. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of the NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society. While much of its history is chronicled in books, articles, pamphlets and magazines, the true movement lies in the faces—black, white, yellow, red, and brown—united to awaken the conscientiousness of a people, and a nation. This is the legacy of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, This article that I enter today reiterates the facts that the civil rights struggle is far from over as it proudly details from history a few of the organization's past successes. I am confident that such leaders as Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP and Karen Boykin-Towns, President of the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP will continue to keep the legacy alive and also keep the NAACP in the forefront, as progress and accomplishments continue, for years to come.

[From the New York CaribNews Editorial, April 11, 2006]

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

It was a succinct and forceful reminder. And it came from a person who knows the issues and from an organization that has led the fight for respect for Black people's civil rights and political liberties. "There is still a lot of civil rights work to be done," was the way Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, put it in an interview with this newspaper. "Many people believe the passing of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott-King and other

icons of the movement signals that the task is over," he added. "Nothing could be further from the truth." Well said!

Anyone looking at the state of Black America, the lack of jobs in Black communities, limited access to adequate health care, a dire shortage of affordable housing, the intolerance of tens of millions of whites, the virulent strains of racism, the glaring attempts to cast young Black men as villains, the policy of cutting off much needed federal, state and local government assistance to families that need it the most and the poor schools that saturate our communities would readily endorse Gordon's marching orders, if you will.

The NAACP is in an excellent position to assess the needs and to address them. And they have earned our support.

Founded on February 12, 1909 by a multi-racial group of activists, who answered the "Call" to action, the NAACP has been at the helm of the long struggle from that historic occasion. We expect it to continue its important work for at least another century.

Turn back some of the pages of history and the record of America's largest and oldest civil rights organization would become clear. A handful of examples, in:

1913 when President Woodrow Wilson officially sanctioned segregation in the federal government, a horrified NAACP launched a nationwide protest.

1915 the NAACP took to the streets and the barricades to condemn D.W. Griffith, the movie producer, for his "inflammatory and bigoted silent film, "Birth of a Nation," which today draws rave reviews from white critics for what they call his "creativity" while ignoring the bigoted nature of the film's content.

1922 In an unprecedented step, the NAACP placed large advertisements in many of the nation's major newspapers to focus national attention on the despicable and inhuman practice of lynching.

1935, NAACP lawyers Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall battled successfully in the courts to have Black students admitted to the University of Maryland.

1939 When the Daughters of the American Revolution prevented world famous soprano, Marian Anderson, from performing at their Constitution Hall, the NAACP sprung into action. It moved the concert to the Lincoln Memorial and 75,000 persons attended.

1948, the organization led the fight that forced President Harry Truman to ban racial discrimination by the federal government, especially in the military.

1954, the NAACP won the landmark case before the Supreme Court that forced an end to segregation in public schools. Brown vs. Board of Education stands today as a battering ram against official segregation.

1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which gave Blacks the unfettered right to participate in the electoral process as voters and candidates. The NAACP was a driving force behind its enactment.

1985, it led a massive anti-apartheid rally in New York that dramatized the plight of millions of Blacks in South Africa.

1997, the organization launched its "Economic Reciprocity Program to fight against conservative efforts in Congress and the courts to end affirmative action.

2000, at the helm of a march by 50,000 persons to protest the flying of the confederate flag over state buildings. It was the largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the South. On and on we can cite chapter and verse about the successes and indeed the relevance of this noble institution whose effectiveness was demonstrated in almost every section of the country and in many nations in different parts of the world.